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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/096,936	06/12/1998	TIMOTHY DARLAND	CDR97007	2377

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WORLDCOM, INC.
TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT
1133 19TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

LUTHER, WILLIAM A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2664	//

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2664

1. The reply filed on October 3, 2002, is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): in the Oct. 3rd reply, allegations of patentable distinction by the applicants is recognized as having been made between the application claim and "Herbert." Pg. 18. However, the previous Office Action that was issued on June 27, 2002 requested, on its page 5 at lines 7-11, distinction between claim and "vendor Excel's programmable switches already patented to Excel . . ." The June 27th Office Action specifically identified U.S. Pat. No. 5,544,163 to Madonna ('163). For the purpose of furthering clarity, the applicants are requested to clearly state what they believe to be the patentable distinction between claim and the entirety of the '030 disclosure, not merely that patented to "Herbert." See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Luther whose telephone number is (703) 308-6609.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:
(703) 872-9314.

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist.)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

William Luther
Primary Examiner
June 26, 2003

